A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, June 5. 1707.

I Told you my Opinion in my laſt, of the News ſpread about the *North* of *Britain*, that the Lawyers in the *South* have found out a Method to prevent the Importation of Wine and Brandy from *Scotland*, whether *Scots* Men Goods or others, without breaking the Union.

If it be true, they are *cunning Fellows*, but here comes an unlikely Queſtion in the Way——*What if it be not true?* What if there ſhould be nothing at all in it all this while? That the Lawyers have pretended to no ſuch thing, but that all things are left to the common Courſe of *Trade* and *Law*, and this is all a Sham of ſomebody's making; meer *common Buzz* of that great Hive, *not of Bees, but of Hornets, I mean the Stock-jobbers*?

If it be ſo, and 'tis not unlikely neither, then the News-writer is a Firebrand, a Spye, that brings an ill Report upon the Land, a Sower of Diſcord, a Prophet of *evil Tidings*, an every thing that ought to be contemn'd, and abhorr'd by all good Men; and this brings me back where I was before, *viz.* That the ſpreading falſe and ſcandalous Reports is fatal and pernicious to the general Peace and common Good of the Country.

I do acknowledge, the Lenity of the Government, in ſuffering their Actions to be inſulted by People, who in writing publick Occurrences labour to embroil the Nation, is a Token of the general Liberty this Nation enjoys, and in ſome Caſes the Government has a great deal more Work cut out for them, than there is any Reaſon for, and more alſo than they would otherwiſe have before them; but whether the Goodneſs of thoſe in Power may not be a Sin againſt themſelves in ſuch a Caſe, I leave to be con-

conſider'd, ſince while they are acting, *as we have good Reaſon to hope*, the publick Good, and purſuing it by wiſe and direct Methods: Theſe Sort of Creatures reporting things which are *falſe*, and miſrepreſenting things *true*, keep the Minds of the People always under the Operation of their Phyſick, ſick, pale, and uneaſie, always murmuring, repining at and reproaching their Governors, and in continual Diſcontents, even when really things are carrying on for the general Good, and in a due Manner as they ought to be managed.

It would be endleſs to fill this Paper with Examples of the pernicious Effects of falſe Reports, either in Caſes publick or private, the Authors are below the Satyr; the two Caſes in the two laſt *Reviews* about the Duke of *Marlborough's bribing the* Swedes *Miniſter of State*, and the Seamen of the two Ships taken by the *French*, *not doing their Duty*, are freſh and lively Inſtances of what I am upon.

The preſent Management of the Affairs in *Scotland* is fill'd with an infinite Variety of Inſtances. What Surmiſes! What falſe Suggeſtions! What weak, and in their Nature moſt vile Inſinuations are every Day buzz'd about, and put into the Heads of the poor People in the *North* of *Britain*, on every Occaſion! Nay, I may ſay without Occaſion at all, if poſſible, to raiſe Jealouſies, Diſtruſts and Diſſatisfactions between the Nations.

That this is Part of the ſame Spirit, and prompted by the ſame Agents, who ſtruggled in vain with the Union, while it was tranſacting in *Scotland*, that bully'd the Parliament, rabbled the Government, and inſulted the Treaters, is eaſie to make out; and were not the Impotence of their Attempts below ſo much Notice, I could go a great Way into Particulars, both as to Perſons and Things——— But I would fain give the Gentlemen Opportunity to let the World forget both them and their Actions, if they have but Diſcretion enough to take the Hint— And as I know, they will hereafter bluſh at the Tranſactions they have appear'd in, it cannot but be for their Advantage to conceal them both, that they may not be known one by another——— If they deſpiſe this Charity, I ſhall be very ſorry for them; but I muſt pay the Debt which Truth demands, and they muſt blame themſelves, if the Conſequence does not pleaſe them.

It is remarkable, the preſent Cry of theſe People in the *North* is, that the *Engliſh, or Southlanders as they call them*, will break the *Union*; others that they have broke the *Union*, *&c.* and long Comments they make upon this Head; the Folly of which is hardly worth expoſing, but the Malice of it, I confeſs, deſerves Notice.

Before I come to the Subſtance of the Complaint, I muſt ſay ſomething to the Perſons and to the Manner, and ſpeak to this ſhort Queſtion.

Who are they that cry out thus of breaking the *Union*, and to this I anſwer directly;

1. Thoſe *loudeſt* that are moſt deſirous it ſhould be broken, that endeavour if poſſible to draw People into Infractions of the Treaty, and then lay hold of the Occaſions to clamour; who like the D—l *firſt tempt*, and *then accuſe*; Thoſe that cry out, 'tis an intollerable Yoke, that it is an unjuſt Compact, that it is a fatal Subjection; that in its Beginning oppos'd it, in its Proceeding clamour'd at it, in its Concluſion mourned over it, now in its Obſervation reflect upon it——— It can be no Breach of Charity to judge, that they act now from the ſame Principle they acted from then; that they cry out, *it is broke*, becauſe they would have it broken, and they would have it be broken from the very ſame Principle, which mov'd them againſt its making.

2. Thoſe, who from deſperate Fortunes and worſe Principles act always retrograde to the true Intereſt of the Nation's Proſperity, who ſtudy to be unquiet, and as *true High-Flyers*, are always ſoaring at ſomewhat they cannot obtain, and ſnarling at every thing they enjoy.

Theſe, from a meer Principle of Uneaſineſs, are ever collecting ſomething fatal, and *Voce Exclamanti* crying out Miſchief, whether there be any or no; that cry *Woe*, *Woe*, when no *Woe cometh*, and are always making themſelves and others uneaſie.

3. The laſt Sort are the ignorant, deluded, little-underſtanding, nothing-thinking

ing

ing People, who being fatally impos'd upon by the firſt Sort, prompt and propagate *the Miſchief*, tho' without *the Malice*; theſe are the Gunpowder, and the other are the Fire; theſe are wholly paſſive in the Deſign, but fatally active in the Effect; for theſe being inflamed by the malicious Purpoſe of the other, receive the Impreſſion, like the Wax from the Seal, and then ſhow the Figure to every Eye.

Talk to one of theſe of the Union, tho' they hardly know, whether 'tis a Man or a Horſe, yet 'tis on the Out-ſide of their Tongues; that 'tis the Ruin of their Country, that 'tis the Deſtruction of their Trade, that the *Engliſh* will cheat them and abuſe them, that they have broke it already, and that we will do what we like with them, now we have gotten it, and the like.

This is the moſt unhappy Part of the thing, *and why?* Becauſe tho' the Principle be naught, the People are good; the Contagion they are infected with is to be abhorr'd, and yet the People are to be pity'd; *and here lyes the Difficulty*, an honeſt Man is put to a Plunge between his Deteſtation of the Principle, and his Compaſſion for the Perſons.

What Courſe can be taken here? To argue with them, is to no Purpoſe; 'tis talking Goſpel to a *Kettle-Drum*, 'tis beating the Air, the Humour is obſtinate, and nothing but Time can reſtore theſe People to their Senſes.

And 'tis on this very Account, that I am ſo apt to exclaim at the Villany of thoſe, who, on purpoſe to lead captive theſe weak but well-meaning Chriſtians, amuſe them with daily Forgeries and innumerable Shams, the vain but vicious Product of a debauched Temper, and by theſe Whiſperings keep the honeſt good People continually uneaſie and diſtemper'd. Is it not the Intereſt and Duty of every honeſt Man to undeceive ſuch as theſe? Is it not the juſt Concern of the Government to clear up the Prejudices of ſuch?

For my part, I value the inſtructing and informing one honeſt meaning ignorant Perſon, more than the detecting and confronting a thouſand Knaves, and 'tis for the ſake of theſe I write; for their Sakes I dwell upon a Subject ſometimes longer than the Rules of Language allow, for their Sakes I repeat and repeat, and quote my ſelf over and over; and can with Eaſe bear the fooliſh Banters of the envious Critick and Reproacher; I had rather ſay the ſame thing over twenty times, than once omit, what may this Way be uſeful.

I am, *without Vanity*, neither ignorant of the Rules of Writing, nor barren of Invention, that ſometimes I repeat and quote what I have formerly ſaid, which I know, thoſe, *this Paper reaches*, never ſaw; 'tis for their Sakes I bear the Reproach of the ſcurrilous, who upbraid me with printing in this Paper, what I had in other Pieces printed before; thouſands ſee this, that never ſaw the other, and what is it to them that it has been ſaid before; do not our Miniſters preach the ſame Sermons to different Auditories? if it does good here, 'tis not the worſe for having been thought of before, let the Railers rail on.

The Deſign of this Paper to open the Eyes of the deluded People, and ſet them to rights in the things in which they are impos'd upon, ſhall, I hope, bear it out, in treſpaſſing the common Rules of Authors; 'tis enough that it is confin'd by the Rules of Truth, and has never yet been detected in one Falſhood.

The unhappy People are deluded, are impos'd upon, are fermented, and their Spirits diſorder'd, *and how?* By raiſing falſe Reports, affirming forg'd and barbarous Allegations, raiſing ſcandalous Surmiſes, and puſhing about abſurd, ridiculous and incongruous Whymſies, among the well meaning but ignorant People in both Nation

Theſe are the Things, I am to detect, theſe I make it my Buſineſs to inform; I am a Tool employ'd to do this, ſays ſome envious and malicious Haters of Peace——— They are the Tools of the D—l employ'd to hinder and diſcourage any Man's laying himſelf out in common and publick Service, who would leſſen any Man for being employ'd in a good Work.

If the Work be of GOD, to quiet the Minds of the impos'd upon abus'd People, to explain Truth to them, and detect Forgery and

and Lies, it would be an Honour to me to be employ'd in it, and I wish, I could say, I were not rather discourag'd than employ'd in it; I should boast to be employ'd in such a Work, and I hope it shall never be to my Dishonour, that unemploy'd and unsupported, I have put my self forward to a Work, that I am sure is of Heaven, as I am sure there is a Heaven.

I scorn to be a Tool to any Man or Party of Men in the World; and as I have given Testimony, that I will not be so at an uncommon Expence, I can go through it all again, rather than submit to any Man's Dictates, against either Conscience or Liberty——While then I am acting the Part of an honest Man, I defie and contemn the Reproach of my being any Man's Engine in it; if it be a good Work, 'tis an Honour to the Employer and the Employed; if it be not, *detect it*, and let us see the Crime; as therefore to my being employ'd, I have only to say, 'tis my Disaster that 'tis not true.

ADVERTISEMENT.

These are to give Notice.

THat *MARY KIRLEUS*, the Widow of *JOHN KIRLEUS*, Son of Dr. *THO. KIRLEUS*, a Sworn-Physician, in ordinary to King *Charles* II. Sells (rightly prepar'd) his Famous Drink and Pills; experienc'd above 50 Years to cure all Ulcers, Sores, Scabs, Itch, Scurf, Scurvies, Leprosies, Running of the Reins, and the most inveterate VENEREAL Disease, with all its attending Symptoms, without Fluxing, Confinement, or destructive Mercurial Preparations: These incomparable Medicines need no Words to expres their Virtues; the many miserable One, that have been happily cured, after gives over by others, sufficiently recommend them as the most Sovereign Remedy in the World against all such Malignities: She cures many after Fluxing, and in Compassion to the distressed, will deal according to the Patient's Ability. The Drink is 3 *s.* the Quart, the Pill 1 *s.* the Box with Directions, and Advice *Gratis*.

†‡† *She lives at the Golden-Ball in Hand-Court, over against great Turnstile in Holborn.*

Preparing for the Press, and great Part of it finished,

A *Compleat* HISTORY OF THE UNION. *The Work will contain about* 250 *Sheets in* Folio, *to be finish'd in six Months from the* UNION: *Being an Account of all the fruitless Attempts made in former Times for Uniting these Kingdoms, with a particular Account of all the Transactions of the present Treaty, the many Contrivances and vigorous Oppositions against it, both in* England *and* Scotland, *whether within the Parliament or without.*

Extracted out of the original Records, Registers, Journals, and other Authorities in both Kingdoms.

With an Appendix,

Containing an Abridgement of all the Alterations made in the Laws, Trade, Customs and Constitution of both Kingdoms by the UNION.

By the Author of the True-Born-Englishman.

Proposals for Printing the said Book by Subscription, will speedily be publish'd, and in the mean Time Subscriptions are taken in by John Matthews, *Printer hereof. The Price is* 20 *s. in Quires,* 5 *s. to be paid down.*

ANtivenereal *Pills, Powders, &c.* which so *effectually*, yet *speedily*, cure the *Venereal Disease*, and all *Symptoms* attending it, that the *Patients* are render'd as *sound* and *healthful*, as ever in their *Lives* before. These *Medicines* prevent the dismal *Effects* of this *Disease*, if taken presently after *Injury* received; and free the *Body* of the *Remains* thereof formerly *ill cured*. Besides they cure the *Scurvy*, *Rheumatism*, *Aches* and *Pains* in the *Limbs*, *Breakings-out*, *Surfeits* got by *Hard Drinking*, *Sand* or *Gravel*, *&c.* Being confirm'd by the *Curation* of (modestly speaking) several *Hundreds* of *Persons*, to be *safe* and *effectual* in the before-mention'd *Cases*, and in most others where *Purgation* is requisite; especially for *Persons* who have ever had any thing of the *Venereal Disease*, tho' 20 Years ago. 4 Doses of the *Pills*, and 8 Papers of the *Powder* with printed Directions, Price 7*s.* at the *Golden Ball* in *Half Moon Court* adjoyning to *Ludgate*, where *Advice*, in any particular Case, may be had of the *Author*, who has been a *practical* and *legally qualified Physician* for 12 Years past.